

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20

DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

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R 251520Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7092

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

COMCARIBSEAFRON

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AC AV UK CARICOM

SUBJ: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING ST. KITTS, ANGUILLA  
AND CARICOM

REF: BRIDGETOWN 682

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY: BRITISH DEFEND RESTRICTION EXCLUDING ANGUILLA  
FROM CARICOM. SOUTHWELL LEVELS FURTHER ACCUSATIONS AT HMG.  
ANGUILLANS COMPLETE STUDY OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION TO BE  
PROPOSED TO HMG LATER THIS YEAR. CARICOM SEEKING WAYS FOR  
ST KITTS PARTICIPATION. ST KITTS REFUSAL TO SIGN CARICOM  
TREATY PROMPTS PRESS CRITICISM OF BRADSHAW, SOME SYMPATHY  
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FOR HMG. END SUMMARY.

1. BRITISH OFFICIAL APRIL 18 PUBLICLY REJECTED CHARGE BY PREMIER ROBERT BRADSHAW THAT HMG HAD BLOCKED ST KITTS ACCESSION TO CARICOM TREATY BY STIPULATING THAT TREATY SHOULD NOT FOR TIME BEING EXTEND TO ANGUILLA. DEPUTY BRITISH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR ANTIGUA AND ST KITTS, RICHARD GILLETTE, TOLD PRESS THAT RESERVATION WAS POLITICAL NECESSITY AND DID NOTHING MORE THAN RECOGNIZE DE FACTO SITUATION OF ANGUILLA'S BEING UNDER SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OVER PAST THREE YEARS.

2. INTERVIEWED AT ANTIGUA AIRPORT ENROUTE TO U.S. ON FIVE-WEEK TOURISM PROMOTION TOUR, ST KITTS DEPUTY PREMIER PAUL SOUTHWELL REPORTEDLY ACCUSED BRITAIN OF OFFERING SUBSTANTIAL AID TO ST KITTS IN EXCHANGE FOR AGREEMENT ON SEPARATION OF ANGUILLA. SOUTHWELL CLAIMED HMG'S EFFORTS TO RETAIN ANGUILLA CAUSING TROUBLES FOR ST KITTS GOVERNMENT AND THAT "UNPRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE" ON ANGUILLA INTERFERING WITH ST KITTS EFFORTS TO ATTRACT NEEDED INVESTMENT. SOUTHWELL SAID ANGUILLANS SHORT-SIGHTED AND MISLED IN PREFERING COLONIAL STATUS TO "PLACE IN THE SUN" AMONG ITS OWN WEST INDIAN BRETHREN AND BEMUSED BY LITTLE SHOW OF AID WHICH HMG COULD HAVE OFFERED LONG BEFORE. ASKED ABOUT POTENTIAL SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN NEVIS, SOUTHWELL REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT WITH OR WITHOUT HMG, DISMEMBERMENT OF ST KITTS COULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

3. MEANWHILE, ANGUILLANS HAVE REPORTEDLY COMPLETED REVIEW OF PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION PREPARED BY ANGUILLA COUNCIL LEADER RONALD WEBSTER AND ANGUILLAN LEGAL EXPERTS. DRAFT, SAID TO BE BASED ON CONSTITUTIONS OF OTHER CARIBBEAN CROWN COLONIES (MONTSERRAT, CAYMAN ISLANDS, BVI), INCLUDES PROVISIONS FOR HMG-APPOINTED GOVERNOR AND SEPARATE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS. DRAFT HAS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ENDORSEMENT OF ANGUILLA CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE, AND PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE TO HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY APRIL 15. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION WOULD PRESUMABLY MEAN ABROGATION OF CONSTITUTION ORDER OF 1967 GRANTING ASSOCIATED STATEHOOD TO THREE-ISLAND GROUPING OF ST KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA AND OF 1971 ORDER RE-ESTABLISHING HMG'S DIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OVER ANGUILLA ON TEMPORARY, CARETAKER BASIS.  
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4. DURING CALL AT EMBASSY APRIL 23, ST KITTS ATTORNEY GENERAL LEE MOORE TOLD AMBASSADOR AND POLOFF THAT CARICOM NOW SEEKING WAYS FOR ST KITTS TO PARTICIPATE IN CARICOM ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT FORMALLY SIGNING TREATY. MOORE SAID ST KITTS HAD RECEIVED URGENT REQUEST FROM CARICOM SECRETARY WILLIAM DEMAS TO ATTEND SPECIAL MEETING ON SUBJECT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CARICOM COUNTRIES, NOW IN BRIDGETOWN TO COORDINATE REGIONAL

POLICIES ON TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. MOORE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CARICOM LEGAL EXPERTS WOULD FIND WAY FOR ST KITTS TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT FOR THE MOMENT ACCEDING TO TREATY. (MEMCON ON MOORE'S VIEWS ON ANGUILLA SITUATION TO FOLLOW BY POUCH.)

5. MEANWHILE, BRADSHAW'S REFUSAL TO SIGN CARICOM TREATY, WHICH WON GENERAL SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FROM STATE LEADERS ASSEMBLED AT TREATY SIGNING IN ST LUCIA APRIL 17, HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY SOME LOCAL EDITORIALISTS. UNNAMED COMMENTATOR WRITING IN BARBADOS "ADVOCATE-NEWS" CHARGED BRADSHAW WITH ALLOWING "PERSONAL POLITICAL INTERESTS TO OVERRIDE HIS HITHERTO ENDLESS QUEST" FOR CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION, ADDING THAT BRADSHAW NOW SEEMED WILLING TO "SACRIFICE HIS PORTION OF THE DREAM OF CARIBBEAN ONENESS" IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ILLUSION THAT ST KITTS STILL EXERCISED CONTROL OVER ANGUILLA. PRINCIPAL EDITORIAL IN APRIL 19 EDITION OF "ADVOCATE" COMMENTED THAT BRADSHAW'S DECISION WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT FINAL SOLUTION TO ANGUILLA PROBLEM, ADDING THAT DESPITE "OBVIOUS FACT THAT ANGUILLA IS NOT AT THIS STAGE ST KITTS' BUSINESS, BRADSHAW CONTINUES TO BEAT THE OLD DRUM." EDITORIAL FURTHER COMMENTED THAT ALLOWING BRADSHAW TO SIGN ON ANGUILLA'S BEHALF WOULD ONLY HAVE ENCOURAGED FURTHER ARGUMENT BY IMPLICITLY STRENGTHENING HIS CLAIM. EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR BRITISH POSITION, EDITORIAL NOTED THAT AT TIME WHEN HMG ANXIOUS TO DIVEST ITSELF OF REMAINING COLONIAL OBLIGATIONS, RETENTION OF ANGUILLA "MIGHT NOT BE ROLE THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT ENJOYS," AND CONCLUDED THAT HOWEVER CARDS FALL "BRITAIN SEEMS SLATED TO TAKE THE BLAME." ADVOCATE'S SENTIMENTS ECHOED IN OTHER REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS, INCLUDING ST KITTS OPPOSITION PAPER "THE DEMOCRAT."

6. COMMENT: DESPITE FACT THAT CARIBBEAN LEADERS RESPONDED  
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MUCH AS BRADSHAW MIGHT HAVE HOPED BY ISSUING THEIR ENDORSEMENT, HOWEVER BRIEF AND TEMPERED, OF ST KITTS REFUSAL TO SIGN CARICOM TREATY, WOULD APPEAR THAT PRIVATELY MOST REGARD BRADSHAW'S POSITION AN UNREALISTIC AND ULTIMATELY UNTENABLE. IF EDITORIAL COMMENTS ARE RELIABLE BELLWEATHER, WOULD SEEM THAT BRADSHAW CAN EXPECT AT BEST ONLY QUALIFIED SUPPORT, OFFICIAL AND OTHERWISE, FOR HIS CONTINUED CLAIM TO ANGUILLA AND THAT HMG WILL NOT BE UNDULY VILLAINIZED OR EMBARRASSED SHOULD ITS DECISION ON ANGUILLA, EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR, RUN COUNTER TO BRADSHAW'S WISHES.  
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## Message Attributes

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